Parker Larson

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Personal Profile Essay

My whole life I have come to find that working hard and playing harder is the best way to live. When times get rough and the stress and anxiety that comes with being a teenager seems to hit you like a wall, I have found peace in a couple things. I was raised Mormon and I find peace in praying daily. My favorite hobbies are a big distraction from everyday life also. I like to get out doors and do physically demanding activities. I love to play volleyball and have found many friends in teams I’ve played and competed with throughout my high school and collage years.

There have been several people in my life that have influenced me the most. One of these is my Dad. I think he has always seen a big piece of himself in me. From a very young age he has pushed me to bike ride with him. I have always been more of a motocross type of dude, but with years of rides, very expensive purchases, and many hours of time on the mountains in our backyard, I’ve grown to love biking. He bought me a road bike for long distance racing when I was 16. I also did the high school mountain bike team when I was a freshman. My Dad’s hobbies have shaped the things I like to do so much. Golfing, fixing broken cars, and of course biking have become my passions also.

My name is Parker Neil Larson. My middle name comes from my grandfather and Parker I guess just sounded good to my parents at the time. My name literally means ‘keeper of the park’. I don’t believe in destiny or anything like that and so far, luckily, I am not a park keeper. I work at a company called Enve. They make carbon fiber bike wheels that are the strongest, lightest and most expensive wheels on the market. I went to the ATC when I was a senior at Ogden High to get my certificate in composites, which led me to this job.

When I was 12 I went to scout camp for the first time. This experience was very hard, but anything worthwhile in life always is. I didn’t know this at the time but the boys I was camping with would become my life long friends. During the week we swam in freezing cold glacier lakes, attacked by clouds of mosquitoes, and faced challenges that seemed impossible. One of the nights we had to canoe across two lakes and build a shelter in the middle of nowhere. As we were hiking, there was a severed deer leg on the path to the place we wanted to sleep. We stopped and stared at it for a second and my leader replied, “Yup, there are bears out here.”

Life’s hardest challenges have taught me the most. I always get more out of the hard classes I take than the easy ones. The people and experiences in my life have changed who I am and who I want myself to be.